

Message Text

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ACTION SS-30

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FM AMEMBASSY SANAA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4095

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY LONDON

S E C R E T SANAA 1573

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: YE, MOPS, PINR, MASS, MCAP, PINT, PINS, YS, SA

SUBJ: EVALUATION CURRENT PDRY THREAT TO YAR

REF: STATE 163910

KUWAIT PASS MUSCAT

1. SUMMARY. EVALUATION PASSED TO HAMDI WHO GRATEFUL. NO NEW DEVELOPMENTS ON BORDER SITUATION. HAMDI TOLD BY PRINCE FAHD SAG READY TO HELP REBUILD YAR ARMED FORCES AND WILL BE CONSULTING WITH USG. END SUMMARY.

2. UPON RECEIPT REFTEL JULY 27, I REQUESTED APPOINTMENT WITH HAMDI. HAMDI WHO HAS HAD VERY HEAVY SCHEDULE WAS UNABLE TO SEEM ME UNTIL AUGUST 1. I DID NOT REQUEST APPOINTMENT ON URGENT BASIS IN ORDER NOT TO STIR ANY FURTHER YARG APPREHENSIONS ABOUT PDRY.

3. DURING CALL ON HAMDI I WENT OVER IN DETAIL USG EVALUATION OF THREAT STRESSING THAT EVALUATION WAS FOR HIM ONLY. HAMDI EXPRESSED APPRECIATION AND CONFIRMED THAT THEGA WERE NO FURTHER REPORTS OF ALLEDGED INVASION PLANS. SITUATION ALONG

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BORDER WAS UNCHANGED.

4. I CONGRATULATED HAMDI ON HIS SUCCESSFUL DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITY, NOTING REPORTS WEHAD RECEIVED ABOUT STRONG SAUDI AND EGYPTIAN SUPPORT FOR YAR. IN PARTICULAR, VISIT OF ASHRAF MARWAN SEEMED TO HAVE BEEN EXTREMELY USEFUL IN STRESSING THIS SUPPORT TO PDRY. SPEAKING PERSONALLY, I NOTED THAT HAMDI ONLY DAY BEFORE HAD SAID PUBLICLY THAT REFORM COULD NOT BE ACCOMPLISHED IN "AN EVENING." THIS SEEMED JUST AS TRUE OF REBUILDING YAR ARMED FORCES. IN TIME NEEDED TO ACCOMPLISH THIS, YAR'S FIRST LINE OF DEFENSE WOULD BE SUPPORT OF ITS MANY ARAB FRIENDS AGAINST ISOLATED PDRY.

5. HAMDI SAID THAT DURING RECENT VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA HE HAD BEEN GRATIFIED BY PRINCE FAHD'S DECLARATION THAT SAG INTENDED TO HELP REBUILD YAR ARMED FORCES AND THAT HE (FAHD) WOULD BE CONSULTING WITH USG ON MATTER SHORTLY. HAMDI ASKED ME IF I KNEW HOW THIS WOULD BE DONE. I RESPONDED THAT FAHD'S VISIT TO US FOLLOWED BY PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA HAD RESULTED IN ESTABLISHING NUMBER OF USG-SAG JOINT COMMISSIONS, INCLUDING ONE ON SECURITY. WE WERE NOT DISCUSSING WITH SAG HOW WORK ON THIS COMMITTEE SHOULD PROCEED. I FELT SURE THAT SUBJECT OF YAR ARMED FORCES WOULD BE IMPORTANT POINT ON AGENDA AND THAT IT WAS TO THIS COMMITTEE THAT FAHD WAS REFERRING. HAMDI ASKED ME TO CONVEY HIS REQUEST THAT USG DO ALL POSSIBLE TO STIMULATE QUICK ACTION BY SAG. HE REALIZED REBUILDING WOULD BE LONG-TERM PROCESS. HE ONLY WANTED TO SEE A FIRST-STEP AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

6. I ALSO TOLD HAMDI THAT I HAD CONVEYED PRIMIN AYNI'S REQUEST FOR EXPEDITING ABU DHABI FINANCED ARMS AND EXPECTED A RESPONSE SHORTLY.

7. COMMENT. HAMDI NOW SEEMS RELAXED ABOUT BORDER SITUATION. POINT MADE IN REFTEL ABOUT HIS DESIRE TO STRENGTHEN HIS REGIME SEEMS TO ME TO BE ACCURATE ASSESSMENT. TO THIS I WOULD ADD MY PURELY INSTINCTIVE FEELING THAT HAMDI, AS PRUDENT NATIONALIST, IS DIPPING HIS TOE INTO WESTERN WATERS TO FEEL TEMPERATURE BEFORE TAKING THE PLUNGE.

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